

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **A PROCLAMATION SUPPORTING THE “START BY BELIEVING” PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.**

**WHEREAS,** West Valley City shares a critical concern for the victims of sexual violence and a desire to support the need for justice and healing; and

**WHEREAS,** in 2014 the West Valley Police Department investigated a total of 116 reported rapes; and

**WHEREAS,** research estimates that as many as 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men are the victim of rape (as reported by the Center for Disease Control, 2012 Summary Report), recognizing that most victims fail to report the crime to law enforcement (according to the U.S. Department of Justice, Victimization Not Reported to the Police, 2006 – 2010);

**WHEREAS,** research documents that victims are far more likely to disclose their victimization to friends or family member, and when those loved ones respond with doubt, shame or blame, victims suffer added negative effects on their physical and psychological well-being (Rape Abuse & Incest National Network); and

**WHEREAS,** the “Start By Believing” public awareness campaign is designed to improve more positive and supporting responses from friends, family members and community professionals so victims can be better helped and supported by resources and the criminal justice system.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** we, the Mayor and City Council of West Valley City, Utah, do hereby proclaim, in concert with Police Chief Lee Russo and the West Valley City Police Department, the support of the “Start By Believing” public awareness campaign.

**DATED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2014.

WEST VALLEY CITY

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY RECORDER